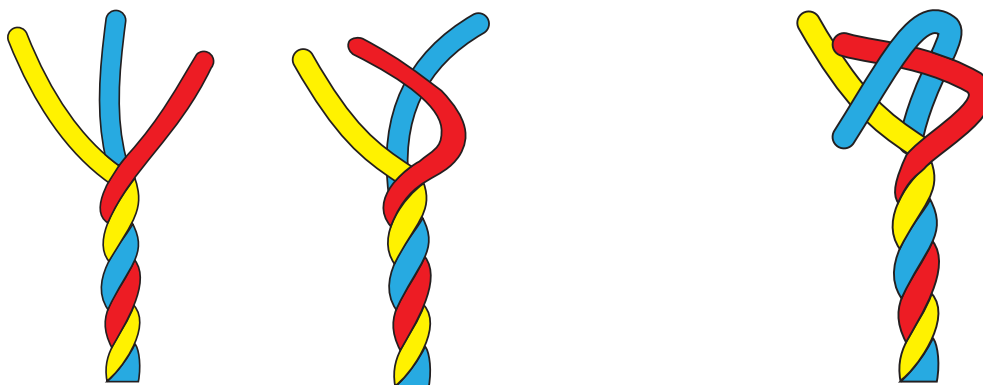


BACK SPLICE

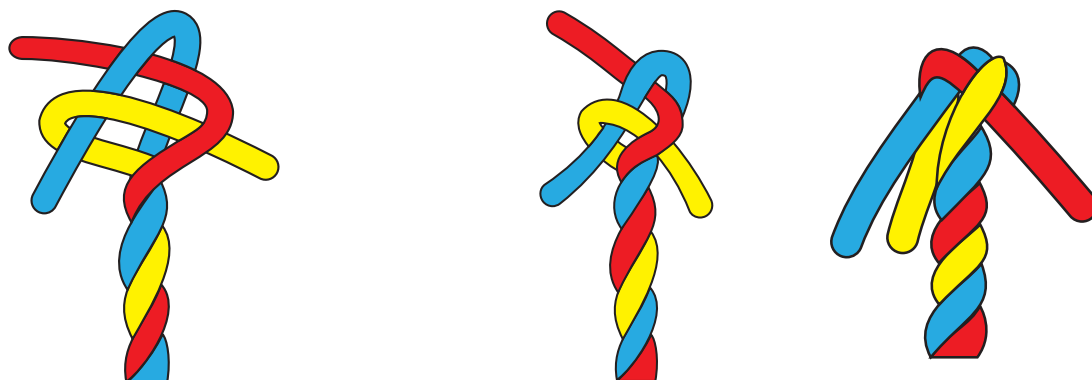
STEP ONE - CROWN KNOT:

Unlay the end of the rope about 12 to 15 centimetres. Hold the rope upright, where the unlaied strands begin, and make sure that the three strands hang down over your hand with an equal distance between each of them. Make a Crown Knot to start the splice.

This is done as follows:



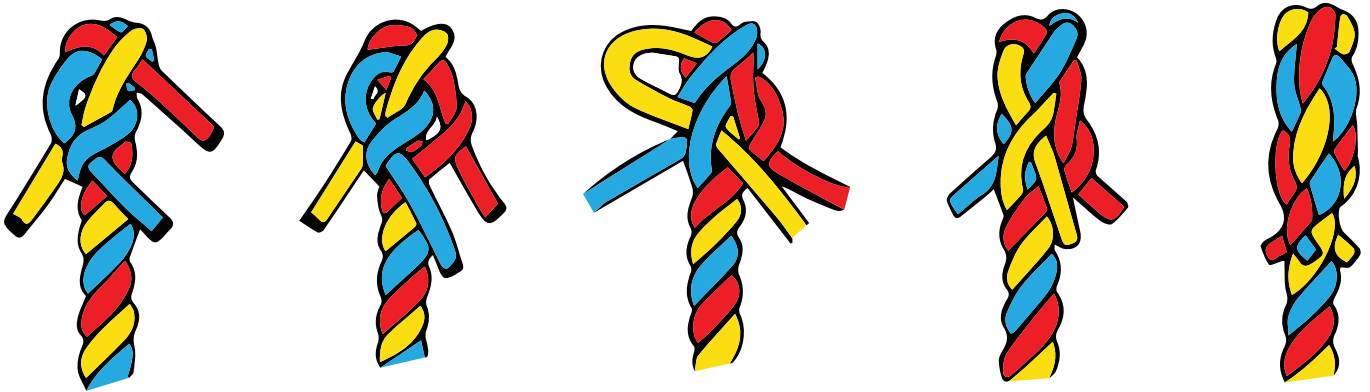
Take one strand (1) and lay it over its neighbour (2), working anti-clockwise. Bring down strand 2 over strand 1 and 3.



Take the end of strand 3 over strand 2 and Tighten each strand in turn by pulling down through the loop made by strand 1. If you have tied the Crown Knot correctly, the strands will hang down the rope with an equal distance between them. You are now ready to make the first 'tuck'.

STEP TWO – BRAIDING:

With a marlinspike or nail, lift one of the strands of the rope immediately below the Crown Knot and pass the end of one of the strands underneath it. Pull tight. Working anti-clockwise, take the end of the next strand and pass it underneath the next laid strand of the rope. Pull tight. Then take the third end and pass it under the third laid strand of the rope. Pull tight. You have now completed the first 'tuck' and if you have done it correctly the strands will hang down with an equal distance between them. After every completed tuck this should be the case.



Now complete the second tuck by passing each of the three ends under a strand in turn as described. above. At the end of your completed tuck the strands should hang down with an equal distance between them. Four sets of tucks will be enough, after which the ends should be trimmed off. If you wish to taper your splice, after the fourth tuck unravel each of the ends in turn and cut one-third of the yarns off. Tuck again with the thinner strands; reduce the strands by another third and then finish off the splice with another tuck. Trim off the ends.